

differences pointed out, such as size, form, marking, white veining, &c., are constant, there is every evidence that *A. Scylla*, instead of being regarded as even a doubtful variety, is a good and constant local form, or, in fact, a distinct species.

In conclusion, I would recommend all Entomologists to beware of excitement about any new craze: a few years ago every unusual patch on a wing, every tuft on any part of an insect, was at once labelled either as some form of scent-bottle or musical box for the delectation of Madame Papilio; in some cases there was sense in the suggestion, but in nine cases out of ten the most pitiable nonsense: now a new craze has arisen; wheresoever in any genus two species stand a little apart on account of intermediate links not having yet been collected, the Lepidopterist pounces upon them as probable seasonal forms; whereas, when one really knows anything of any genus of *Lepidoptera*, one finds that all the representatives of that genus are reduced to very slightly differentiated local races.

British Museum: *February*, 1885.

DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW SPECIES OF BUTTERFLIES.

BY H. GROSE SMITH.

PAPILIO SYCORAX.

Upper-side. Anterior-wings olive-brown, the longitudinal rays in the cell, the nervures, and broad bands between the nervures dark olive-brown. Posterior-wings: the inner half somewhat greener than the anterior-wings, the outer half greenish-grey, in the middle of which between the nervures is a row of five large conical black spots, the two upper spots extending to the cell on the inner side; on the outer margin are five, large, black, quadrate spots confluent on the outer margin, the spot nearest the upper angle is also confluent on the inside with the upper spot of the central row. The outer margin ashy-grey, deeply indented between the nervures.

Under-side. Both wings as above, but much lighter, and the outer row of spots on the margin of the posterior-wings are distinct. Head and collar ashy-grey. Abdomen greenish-grey above, underneath orange, two rows of black spots on either side.

Exp. 6 in.

Hab.: Sumatra (Bock).

A grand insect, nearest to *P. Priapus*.

CHARAXES VIOLETTA.

Upper-side. ♂. Anterior-wings dark brown, suffused slightly with violet, with a curved row of violet-blue spots across the middle of the wings, and a sub-marginal row of similar spots from near the costa to the inner margin, the lower half of the two rows becoming confluent, the two sub-marginal spots near the apex nearly white. Posterior-wings with a broad central band of violet-blue, suffused with white from the second sub-costal nervule to the abdominal fold near the anal angle; above this band are two pairs of violet-blue spots, a sub-marginal row of seven small spots, and

a row of elongated spots on the margin on each side of the nervules, all violet-blue suffused with white. ♀. Anterior-wings with a broad curved band across the centre of the wings from the costa to the inner margin, and two white transverse spots near the apex. Posterior-wings: the inner half, from near the base, white, suffused with violet, a sub-marginal row of small white spots, and a marginal white line intercepted by the nervures, both suffused with violet.

Under-side. Both wings as in *Ch. Cithæron*, except that the central black line across both wings, which is broadly bordered on the outside with white, is straight and continuous, not irregular and interrupted as in *Cithæron*. This species on the upper-side has a general resemblance to *Cithæron*, it is more violet-blue, and is smaller in size, particularly the female, which is not so large as the male *Cithæron*, while the under-side of both sexes is very distinct from *Cithæron*. Exp. 3½ in.

Hab.: Delagoa Bay.

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THE LIFE-HISTORY OF *ASOPIA (PYRALIS) FARINALIS*.

BY THE REV. J. HELLINS, M.A.

In his prefatory remarks on *Pyralis*, Guenée wrote that nothing showed the negligence of entomologists more plainly than their ignorance of the metamorphoses of the species placed by him in that genus; and, to say nothing of the appearance of *farinalis* in one's house, certainly to see the moth, as I have, sitting by hundreds on the walls of a mill, one would think it was easy enough to find the larva: yet the late Mr. Buckler, living in a house with a flour-mill attached to it, met with considerable difficulty in obtaining the larva of this "Mühlgänger," as Dr. E. Hofmann calls it: it was not to be found on the floors, but had to be hunted out very carefully under projecting ledges of portions of the machinery, where it could form its galleries in safety; he obtained a few examples also from a stable, where they were feeding in company with *A. pinguinalis* on mixed rubbish well hidden under an oat-bin.

Farinalis may fairly be called a domestic insect, and, contrary to the more common lot of *Lepidoptera*, it has rather profited than otherwise from human progress: as one can scarcely conceive of any natural collection of seeds or stalks which would nourish it in such numbers as may now be seen.

The moth, I know, begins to appear towards the end of June, and continues its flight through July and August; the larva apparently is hatched in less than a month after the egg has been laid, and, as Mr. Buckler told me he had satisfactorily ascertained, lives through two winters, becoming a pupa in May or June of the second year; and the pupa state lasts about a month.

The egg is rather long oval in outline, somewhat flattened, about .65 mm. long, and .35 mm. wide; the shell very thin and soft, finely granulated or wrinkled all over, glistening, in colour dirty white.